



Repeater: NØDX 145.190 MHz (Input 144.590 / Tone 192.8 Hz)



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## The Eastern Iowa DX Bulletin

Number 274, May 16, 2025

**Craig Fastenow, KØCF, Editor**

This bulletin is a compilation of **currently active** DX operations (or those that will become active within the current week) from recent issues of the three DX bulletins listed below and other sources. Credit for the source is given at the end of each article.

Articles are ordered by the entity's callsign prefix from the *ARRL DXCC Entities List*. Callsigns used are in **bold** with dates of operation highlighted in **red**. Clickable links are provided for QSL and other information wherever possible. Note that articles may be edited for grammar, language, style and accuracy and will remain in *The Bulletin* while active; articles that are announcements of ongoing operations, or that have no specified end date, will be removed after three weeks.

Also included is a [Propagation](#) section, updated daily; and a [Contest Calendar](#) of upcoming popular contests.

DX News items are courtesy of:

The ARRL DX Bulletin

The bulletin is available at <http://www.arrl.org>

425 DX News, A.R.I. DX Bulletin (425DXN)

Edited by Mauro Pregliasco, I1JQJ & Valeria Pregliasco, IK1ADH

425 DX News Home Page: <https://www.425dxn.org/>

425 DX News Google Group: <https://groups.google.com/g/425eng>

DX Newsletter (DXNL)

Edited by Andreas Salder, DK5ON

A weekly service of DARC Committee "DX", <http://www.darcdxhf.de>

Propagation data is from:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's

[Space Weather Prediction Center](#)

Dr. Tony Phillips' [SpaceWeather.com](http://SpaceWeather.com), used by permission

Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)



### Solar-Terrestrial Data

17 May 2025 1711 GMT  
 SFI: 117 SN: 45  
 A-Index: 13  
 K-Index: 4  
 X-Ray: B4.5  
 304A: 124.4 @ SEM  
 Ptn Flx: 61  
 Elc Flx: 3140  
 Aurora: 5/n=1.99  
 Mag (Bz): 4.3  
 Solar Wind: 608.6  
 Geomag Field ACTIVE  
 Sig Noise Lvl S3-S4  
 Current Solar Image



<http://www.nonbh.com>  
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## DX News

**3A, MONACO.** Special event call sign **3A1ØØA** will be QRV from **April 15th to June 30th** to commemorate the centenary of the IARU. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, and various digital modes. QSL via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 15 April 10, 2025] (0411-0627)

**3DA, KINGDOM OF ESWATINI.** Morten, LA9GY will be QRV as **3DAØGY** from **May 22nd to June 2nd**. Activity will be holiday style on 80 to 10 meters, with a focus on 20, 15 and 10 meters, using CW and SSB. QSL direct to [LA9GY](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 20 May 15, 2025] (0516-0606)

**3V, TUNISIA.** Giovanni, IT9PZM is now QRV as **3V8LL** from Djerba Island (AF-083). Activity is on the HF bands. QSL via operator's instructions.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 20 May 15, 2025] (0516-0606)

**4U/ITU, ITU HQ.** Special callsign **4UØITU** will be activated by the International Amateur Radio Club at ITU HQ in Geneva from **May 16th through the end of the year** in celebration of the 160th anniversary of the International Telecommunication Union. QSL via LoTW, [ClubLog's OQRS](#), or direct to IARC, P.O. Box 6, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland.

-[425DXN # 1775 May 10, 2025] (0516-0606)

**7P, LESOTHO.** Mark, KW4XJ and Arina, KO4PZT are QRV as **7P8AB** and **7P8NB**, respectively, **until mid-2025**. QSL via [KW4XJ](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 18 May 1, 2025] (0502-0613)

**9G, GHANA.** Tommy, ON2TD is now QRV as **9G5TD**. Activity is holiday style mostly on 20 meters using SSB. His length of stay is unknown. QSL to [ON2TD](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 20 May 15, 2025] (0516-0606)

**C3, ANDORRA.** Members of the Unio de Radioaficionats Andorrans (C37URA ) will be active as **C37JPE throughout May**. The special callsign's suffix stands for Jocs dels Petits Estats d'Eu-ropa, the Games of the Small States of Europe whose 20th edition will be held in Andorra la Vella on May 26th-31st. QSL via the bureau or direct to [C37JPE](#).

-[425DXN # 1774 May 3, 2025] (0502-0530)

**CE, CHILE.** Members of the Radio Club de Chile are QRV with special event call sign **XR1ØØIARU** **until May 20th** to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the IARU. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL via [CE3AA](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 16 April 17, 2025] (0418-0523)

**CO, CUBA.** Team **T48JM** will be active on **May 19th to 23rd** to commemorate the 130th anniversary of the death of Cuban national hero José Martí. Look for activity on 160-10 meters SSB, CW, FT8, and FT4, as well as on 6 and 2m. QSL via QRZ Logbook, via email ([frc.t48jm@gmail.com](mailto:frc.t48jm@gmail.com)), or via [RW6HS](#).

-[425DXN # 1776 May 17, 2025] (0516-0523)

**D4, CAPE VERDE.** Harold, DF2WO and Warren, KN6ZZI will be QRV as **D44TWO** and **D44ZZI**, respectively, from Santiago Island (AF-005) from **May 5th to 26th**. Activity will be on the HF bands with D44TWO using mainly CW and FT8, and D44ZZI mainly on SSB and FT8. This includes being on Satellite QO-100. QSL both calls via [MØOXO's OQRS](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 18 May 1, 2025] (0502-0530)

**DL, GERMANY.** Celebrating the Deutsche Amateur-Radio-Club's 75th anniversary, four special callsigns will be activated by DARC Team SES from **May 1st to October 31st: DC75DARC, DD75DARC, DK75DARC, and DR75DARC**. See <https://www.darc.de/der-club/referate/dx/sonderdiplome/> for the "75 Jahre DARC" certificate. QSL via the bureau, or direct to [DL2VER](#).

-[425DXN # 1774 May 3, 2025] (0502-0530)

**DL, GERMANY.** Special callsign **DMØLIMES** will be active from **May 1st to July 1st** for this year's German World Heritage Day (June 1st). Also active will be **DM3LIMES** on **May 31st - June 1st**. The Limes was the border line of the Roman Empire at its greatest extent. In 2005, the remnants of the Upper German-Raetian Limes were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list as "Frontiers of the Roman Empire". QSL both via the bureau.

-[425DXN # 1773 April 26, 2025] (0425-0627)

**DXCC TOP TWENTY.** Here are the top 20 entities on ClubLog's "DXCC Most Wanted" list as of May 15, 2025:

1. P5	DPRK (North Korea)	11. ZS8	Prince Edward & Marion Islands
2. BS7H	Scarborough Reef	12. KH4	Midway Island
3. CEØX	San Felix Islands	13. VKØM	Macquarie Island
4. BV9P	Pratas Island	14. PYØS	Saint Peter And Paul Rocks
5. KH7K	Kure Island	15. KP5	Desecheo Island
6. KH3	Johnston Island	16. VPØS	South Sandwich Islands
7. 3Y/P	Peter 1 Island	17. ZL9	New Zealand Subantarctic Islands
8. FT5/X	Kerguelen Island	18. FK/C	Chesterfield Islands

9. YVØ	Aves Island	19. VKØH	Heard Island
10. 3Y/B	Bouvet Island	20. FT/T	Tromelin Island

For the complete list, see <https://clublog.org/mostwanted.php>

-[KØCF May 16, 2025] (0516-0606)

**EA6, BALEARIC IS.** Rene, DL2JRM is QRV as **EA6/DL2JRM** until May 18th. He will be an entry in the His Majesty King of Spain CW Contest (May 17th-18th). QSL to [DL2JRM](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 20 May 15, 2025] (0516-0523)

**EI, IRELAND.** Special callsign **GBØAEL** commemorates Amelia Earhart's transatlantic crossing of 1932, the first non-stop by a female pilot, until the end of May. QSL via [MIØHOZ](#).

-[DXNL # 2457 May 7, 2025] (0509-0530)

**F, FRANCE.** Dimitri, F4DSK and Lee, F5MUX will be active as **TM16ØITU** on May 17th-31st. The special callsign marks the 160th anniversary of the International Telecommunication Union. QSL via LoTW and eQSL.

-[425DXN # 1775 May 10, 2025] (0516-0530)

**F, FRANCE.** Celebrating the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe, special callsign **TM45END** will be active on May 7th-31st. QSL via [F5JYD](#).

-[425DXN # 1773 April 26, 2025] (0502-0530)

**F, FRANCE.** Special event callsign **TM1ØREF**, one of many celebrating the REF centenary, will be active from April 25th to 27th, May 8th to 11th, and May 29th until June 1st.

-[DXNL # 2455 April 23, 2025] (0425-0606)

**F, FRANCE.** Special callsigns **TM1ØØI**, **TM1ØØA**, **TM1ØØR** and **TM1ØØU** by the Radio Club Pierre Coulon (F5KMB) celebrate the centenary of the International Amateur Radio Union from April 12th to July 13th. QSL via eQSL only; paper cards will not be provided.

-[425DXN # 1771 April 12, 2025] (0411-0711)

**FM, MARTINIQUE.** Darrell, AB2E will be active as **TO3E** from Martinique (NA-107) on May 20th-27th, including an entry in the CQ WPX CW Contest (May 24th-25th). He will operate mainly CW, with some FT8 and RTTY; outside the contest he will concentrate on 30, 17 and 12m, as well as on the low bands. QSL via LoTW, or to [AB2E](#).

-[425DXN # 1775 May 10, 2025] (0516-0530)

**FO, FRENCH POLYNESIA.** Didier, F6BCW is QRV as **TX5U** from Tikehau Island (OC-066) until June 8th. Activity is on 40 to 6 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 19 May 8, 2025] (0509-0606)

**FY, FRENCH GUIANA.** Antonio, DL4EA will be active holiday style as **FY/DL4EA** from French Guiana on May 19th to 21st. He will be QRV on satellites (RS-44 and QO-100), with some QRP activity on the HF bands. See <https://hams.at> for satellite activations. QSL to [DL4EA](#).

-[425DXN # 1776 May 17, 2025] (0516-0523)

**GI, NORTHERN IRELAND.** Once again, the North West Group ARC (MNØNWG) is running special event station **GBØAEL** from May 5th to 31st to commemorate the anniversary of Amelia Earhart's transatlantic flight. On May 20-21, 1932, Earhart became the first woman to fly nonstop and alone across the Atlantic, leaving Harbor Grace on Newfoundland (Canada), and landing 15 hours later near Londonderry (Northern Ireland). QSL via [MIØHOZ](#).

-[425DXN # 1773 April 26, 2025] (0502-0530)

**HBØ, LIECHTENSTEIN.** Kasimir, DL2SBY will be active as **HBØ/DL2SBY** from Liechtenstein on May 11th to 18th. He will be QRV on the HF bands with verticals and an inverted vee, and on 6 meters with 5-element Yagi. QSL via LoTW, or direct to [DL2SBY](#).

-[425DXN # 1774 May 3, 2025] (0509-0523)

**HP, PANAMA.** Jose, HP2AT will celebrate his 35th anniversary in amateur radio with special callsign **H82AT** until December 31st. All QSOs will be uploaded to QRZ, ClubLog, eQSL, and LoTW. Paper

cards will not be available.

-[425DXN # 1775 May 10, 2025] (0509-0530)

**HP, PANAMA.** Special event call sign **3E7D** is QRV **until June 1st**. QSL via [HP1AVS](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 17 April 24, 2025] (0425-0606)

**HR, HONDURAS.** Renato, PY8WW is QRV as **HR4/PY8WW** from Isla del Tigre (NA-060) **until May 17th**. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB, and various digital modes. QSL via [PY8WW](#) or LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 20 May 15, 2025] (0516-0523)

**IARU 100.** More special event stations/callsigns from IARU societies celebrating the 100th anniversary of the International Amateur Radio Union include:

- \* **4X1ØØIARU** and **4Z1ØØIARU** by the Israel Association of Radio Communication (IARC). QRV on **April 14th-25th**. QSL via [4Z5MU](#) and LoTW.

- \* **9H6IARU** by the Malta Amateur Radio League (MARL). QRV throughout **April and May**. QSL via eQSL and LoTW.

- \* **B1ØØIARU** by the Chinese Radio Amateurs Club (CRAC). QRV from **April 18th to June 17th**. Certificates on <https://hamaward.cloud>. QSL via [BG9GXM](#) and LoTW.

- \* **DX1ØØIARU** from the Philippine Amateur Radio Association (PARA).

- \* **EY1ØØIARU** by the Tajik Amateur Radio League (TARL). QRV on **April 12th-30th**. QSL via [WØVTT](#) and LoTW.

- \* **R1ØØIARU** by Soyuz Radiolyubitelei Rossii (SRR). QRV on **April 18th-27th**.

- \* **XR1ØØIARU** by the Radio Club de Chile. QRV from **April 15th to May 20th**.

Digital QSLs will be available: <https://www.ce3aa.cl/xr100iaru/>.

-[425DXN # 1772 April 19, 2025] (0418-0530)

**I, ITALY.** Special callsign **I13IARU** by Alex, IV3KKW marks the 100th anniversary of the IARU and the 75th anniversary of IARU Region 1 **until May 18th**. A member of IARU Region 1 Executive Committee, Alex is also the VHF/UHF/Microwave Contest Coordinator. QSL via [IV3KKW](#).

-[425DXN # 1774 May 3, 2025] (0502-0523)

**ISØ, SARDINIA.** The ARI section Porto Torres (IQØAK) celebrates its 50th anniversary with the special callsign **IRØAPTT**.

-[DXNL # 2457 May 7, 2025] (0509-0530)

**JA, JAPAN.** Special event station **8K3EXPO** is QRV **until October 13th** for the 2025 Expo in Osaka. QSL via [JA3UJR](#), e-QSL, LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 19 May 8, 2025] (0509-0530)

**JA, JAPAN.** Take, JI3DST will be active again as **JS6RRR** from Miyako Island (AS-079) from **April 23rd to June 18th**. Other callsigns to be used are **JI3DST/6**, **JJ5RBH/6** and **JA3YEC/6**, as well as **JI3DST/p**, **JJ5RBH/p** and **JA3YEC/p** on FT8. QSOs will be made available for ClubLog and LoTW matching on the IOTA website. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#).

-[425DXN # 1774 May 3, 2025] (0502-0620)

**JD1/M, MINAMI TORISHIMA.** Take, JG8NQJ is QRV as **JG8NQJ/JD1** **until June 20th**. Activity is in his spare time on the HF bands using CW and FT8. QSL via [JA8CJY](#) (direct), JG8NQJ (bureau) and LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 16 April 17, 2025] (0418-0620)

**OE, AUSTRIA.** Special callsign **4UØIARU** by the VIC Amateur Radio Contest DX Club (4U1A, <https://4u1a.club/>) celebrates the centenary of the IARU. This activity counts for Austria for DXCC, and for the Vienna International Centre for the CQ DX Marathon. QSOs are uploaded to ClubLog.

-[425DXN # 1774 May 3, 2025] (0502-0523)

**OE, AUSTRIA.** Special event call sign **OE1ØØOEVS** is QRV **until December 31st** to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Austrian Amateur Radio Society. QSL via the bureau.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 18 May 1, 2025] (0502-0523)



**OE, AUSTRIA.** Special callsign **OE175ARWT** will be available for prefix hunters **until the end of May**.  
-[DXNL # 2455 April 23, 2025] (0425-0530)

**OHØ, ALAND IS.** Team **OHØERF** (DGØOCG, DL1STL, DL1TAM, DL5ARI, DL5AXI and DO6KD) will be active from Eckero, Aland Islands (EU-002) on **May 22nd to 27th**. They will operate SSB, CW and FT8 on 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2 meters, as well as on 70cm and QO-100. QSOs will be uploaded to LoTW and ClubLog. QSL via [DKØERF](#).  
-[425DXN # 1776 May 17, 2025] (0516-0530)

**ON, BELGIUM.** Special callsign **OT25EPIC** by the Antwerp Port Contest Club (ON8APC) promotes this year's edition of the Antwerp Port Epic cycling race. Look for activity from **May 10th until June 9th** (the actual day of the race). QSL via [ON8JJ](#).  
-[425DXN # 1774 May 3, 2025] (0509-0613)

**P2, PAPUA NEW GUINEA.** Xu, BG5DON is QRV as **P29XZ**. Activity is in his spare time on the 20, 15, 10, and 6 meters FT8 frequencies. QSL direct to [EA5GL](#).  
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 18 May 1, 2025] (0502-0523)

**PA, NETHERLANDS.** Peter, PD1RP is QRV with special event station **PD8ØFREE** **until June 30th** to celebrate the 80 years of liberation since World War II. Activity is on 40, 20, 10, and 2 meters using CW, SSB, and digital modes. QSLs sent to all contacts via the bureau. No QSL or request needed.  
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 15 April 10, 2025] (0411-0627)

**PJ4, BONAIRE.** Frank, PH2M will be active holiday style as **PJ4M** from Bonaire (SA-006) on **May 16th-29th**. He will operate mainly FT8 and some SSB on 80-10 meters, possibly also on 6 meters if conditions allow. QSL via LoTW, [ClubLog's OQRS](#), or via [PH2M](#).  
-[425DXN # 1775 May 10, 2025] (0516-0530)

**PZ, SURINAME.** Antonio, DL4EA will be active holiday style as **PZ5EA** from Suriname on **May 22nd to 26th**. He will be QRV on satellites (RS-44 and QO-100), with some QRP activity on the HF bands. QSL via LoTW and eQSL.  
-[425DXN # 1776 May 17, 2025] (0516-0530)

**T8, PALAU.** Watch for **T88DZ** (QSL via [JR2JGR](#)), **T88HF** (QSL via LoTW, eQSL, or direct to [JF1GHX](#)), and **T88SG** (QSL via [JK1SZX](#)) to be active on various bands and modes from Koror (OC-009) Palau on **May 22nd to June 1st**.  
-[425DXN # 1776 May 17, 2025] (0516-0606)

**TR, GABON.** Roland, F8EN is QRV as **TR8CR** **until mid-June**. Activity is on the HF bands using only CW. QSL direct to [F6AJA](#).  
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 15 April 10, 2025] (0411-0613)

**V4, ST. KITTS & NEVIS.** Juan, AC6ZM will be active as **V4/AC6ZM** from St. Kitts (NA-104) on **May 18th-27th**. He will operate CW, FT8, RTTY and some SSB on various HF bands and 6 meters and will participate in the CQ WPX CW Contest (May 24th-25th) as **V49K**. QSL via LoTW, [ClubLog's OQRS](#), or [AC6ZM](#).  
-[425DXN # 1775 May 10, 2025] (0516-0530)

**V5, NAMIBIA.** Remo, HB9SHD is QRV as **V51/HB9SHD** **until June 15th**. Activity is holiday style on 40 to 6 meters using SSB and various digital modes. QSL via LoTW.  
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 18 May 1, 2025] (0502-0620)

**VP8, FALKLAND IS.** Gerry, G3WIP, now that he is retired, has moved from Ascension Island (ZD8GB) to Port Stanley and plans to operate as **VP8DPD** from **May 10th until July 12th**, mostly on 20-10m. QSL via [EA5GL](#).  
-[DXNL # 2458 May 14, 2025] (0516-0711)

**VR, HONG KONG.** Members of the Hong Kong Amateur Radio Transmitting Society are active with special call sign **VR1ØØIARU** **until December** to celebrate the centenary of the IARU. QSL via the bureau.  
-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 18 May 1, 2025] (0502-0523)

**VU7, LAKSHADWEEP IS.** A group of operators will be QRV as **VU7T** from Agatti Island (AS-011) from **May 22nd to 28th**. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB, and FT8. This includes being active on Satellite QO-100 using FT8, and in the upcoming CQ WPX CW contest (May 24th-25th). QSL via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 20 May 15, 2025] (0516-0530)

**YL, LATVIA.** Special event station **YL35G** marks the anniversary of re-established Latvian independence **from May 4th onwards**. QSL via [YL3GBC](#).

-[DXNL # 2456 April 30, 2025] (0502-0523)

**YO, ROMANIA.** Special callsign **YO16ØITU** will be activated by the Federatia Romana de Radioamatorism (FRR) to celebrate the 160th anniversary of the International Telecommunications Union **until May 31st**. An anniversary diploma will be available, see <https://www.qrz.com/db/YO160ITU> for information. QSL via bureau.

-[425DXN # 1776 May 17, 2025] (0516-0530)

**Z6, REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO.** An Italian team remains active as **Z68TT** (CW, SSB, RTTY) and **Z68ZZ** (FT8) **until May 17th** with 4 stations on 80-6m. QSL via [I2YSB](#), OQRS, LoTW.

-[DXNL # 2458 May 14, 2025] (0516-0523)

**Z6, REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO.** Anne, OH2YL and Marko, OH2LGW will be active from Kosovo as **Z68YL** and **Z68OM**, respectively, on **May 20th to 30th**. They will operate CW, SSB and FT8 on 160-6 meters. QSL for both callsigns via [OH2YL](#).

-[425DXN # 1773 April 26, 2025] (0516-0530)

**ZA, ALBANIA.** Active on various bands and modes until May 31st, **ZA25GIA** is a special callsign to mark this year's edition of the Giro d'Italia, the annual multiple-stage cycling race whose three opening stages took place in Albania. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#).

-[425DXN # 1776 May 17, 2025] (0516-0530)

**ZL, NEW ZEALAND.** Special callsign **ZL1ØØIARU** will be used by New Zealand's IARU member society, NZART, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the International Amateur Radio Union **until July 31st**. QSOs will be uploaded to QRZ Logbook and LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1776 May 17, 2025] (0516-0801)

**ZL7, CHATHAM IS.** Holger, ZL3IO will be active again as **ZL7IO** from Waitangi, Chatham Islands (OC-038) on **May 19th to 26th**. This will be "a working bee trip", he says, "since we have damage to antennas, and problems with the power supply". QSL via LoTW, [ClubLog's OQRS](#) (preferred), or via [DK7AQ](#).

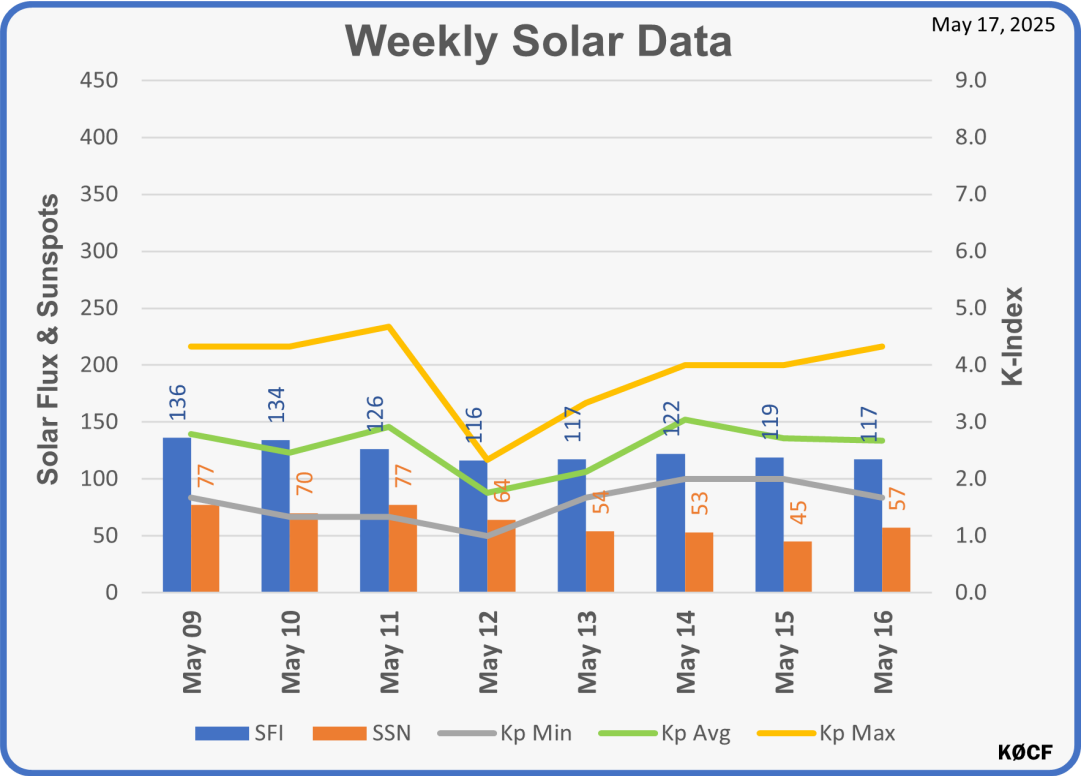
-[425DXN # 1776 May 17, 2025] (0516-0530)

**ZP, PARAGUAY.** DK4TC, Tom, signs **ZP8/DL4TC** from Santa Rosa Misiones **during April and May**. QSL via Bureau, eQSL, LoTW.

-[DXNL # 2455 April 23, 2025] (0425-0530)

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## Propagation (Updated daily)



The Weekly Solar Data chart plots Solar Flux Index (SFI), Sunspot number (SSN) and Planetary K-Index (Kp) for the past 8 days. With 8 Planetary K-index readings each day, only the minimum, average and maximum K-index values are plotted. **Note:** You may click [here](#) or on the chart above to see the same data for the past month.

The Daily Solar Flux Index, Sunspot number, Planetary K-index, Solar Flux predictions and Solar Flare data used in this bulletin have been collected by KØCF from the U.S. Department of Commerce's NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center.

The propagation graphs above are the creations of KØCF and are unique in space weather reporting.

*Please Note: The graphs are high resolution .PNG files which you may view in greater detail using your browser's "zoom" feature. Alternatively, right click on the graph and select "Open Image in New Tab" to enlarge it, or "Save Image As..." to save it to your computer for further analysis.*

NASA's current view of the Sun at a wave-length of 131 Angstroms. This wavelength shows incredible solar detail.



Click [here](#) or on the image to view as a full screen 48-hour video loop. It is fascinating!

### Propagation Summary

For the 8 day period from Friday, May 9th through yesterday, May 16th.

The average solar flux was 122, down 31 points from the previous week, with a weekly high of 136 on Friday, May 9th, followed by a low of 116 on May 12th.

The average sunspot count was 60, down by 27 from last week, peaking at 77 on Sunday, May 11th followed by a weekly low of 45 on May 15th.

The Planetary K-index weekly average was 3.9 with a maximum of 4.7 on Sunday, May 11th, indicating generally quiet geomagnetic conditions. Yesterday's K-index maximum was 4.3 with generally quiet conditions.

Solar flare activity since May 10th has been interesting with 8 major flares, the largest of which was a major X 2.7 event on Wednesday, May 14th.

Propagation Data

Major solar flares, Saturday, May 10th through 1306 UTC, May 17th.

#	Date	UTC	Mag.
1	May 15	1721	M 2.1
2	May 14	1811	M 4.7
3	May 14	1119	M 7.7
4	May 14	0825	X 2.7
5	May 14	0745	M 1.2
6	May 14	0325	M 5.3
7	May 13	1538	X 1.2
8	May 12	0001	M 1.9

(NOAA's graph of recent flare activity: [GOES-X-Ray-Flux](#))

From the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center, here are the probabilities of major solar flares and the predicted 10.7 cm Solar Flux for the next 3 days. NOAA updates this information daily.

Date	M-Flares	X-Flares	Solar Flux
May 17	60%	20%	118
May 18	55%	15%	118
May 19	55%	15%	120

Looking farther ahead, here is the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center forecast of 10.7 cm radio flux and maximum Planetary K-index (Kp) for the next 12 days. This data is updated by NOAA every Monday (last updated on May 12, 2025).

Date	Flux	Kp
May 17	115	2
May 18	115	3
May 19	120	4
May 20	125	3

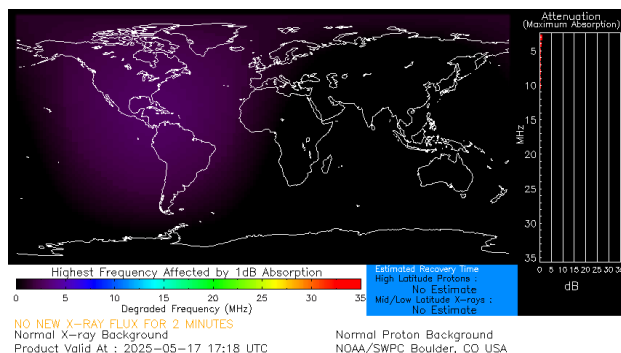
Date	Flux	Kp
May 21	125	3
May 22	125	2
May 23	130	2
May 24	130	2

Date	Flux	Kp
May 25	130	2
May 26	135	2
May 27	140	3
May 28	140	5

Global D Region Absorption

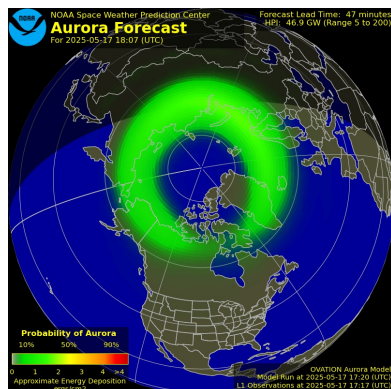
Conditions in the D-region of the ionosphere have a dramatic effect on HF communications. The D-Region Absorption map combines the effects of solar particles and photons. Yellow to red colors on the map depict increasing signal attenuation, where the bar chart at the right displays attenuation versus frequency. Click the thumbnail below for an animated map of D-Region Absorption:





## The Aurora Borealis

The aurora is not only beautiful to see but can have a profound impact on HF and VHF radio propagation. For the HF operator, auroras can result in a complete shut-down of propagation. However, on VHF, auroras present interesting DX possibilities. Beam antennas are very desirable and should be pointed north, towards the aurora. Signals are reflected by "back-scatter" and will be distorted with a rough buzz. SSB is the best voice mode to use, but copy can be difficult. CW will have a rough buzzy sound but be perfectly copyable. Click the thumbnail below for an animated map of aurora versus time:



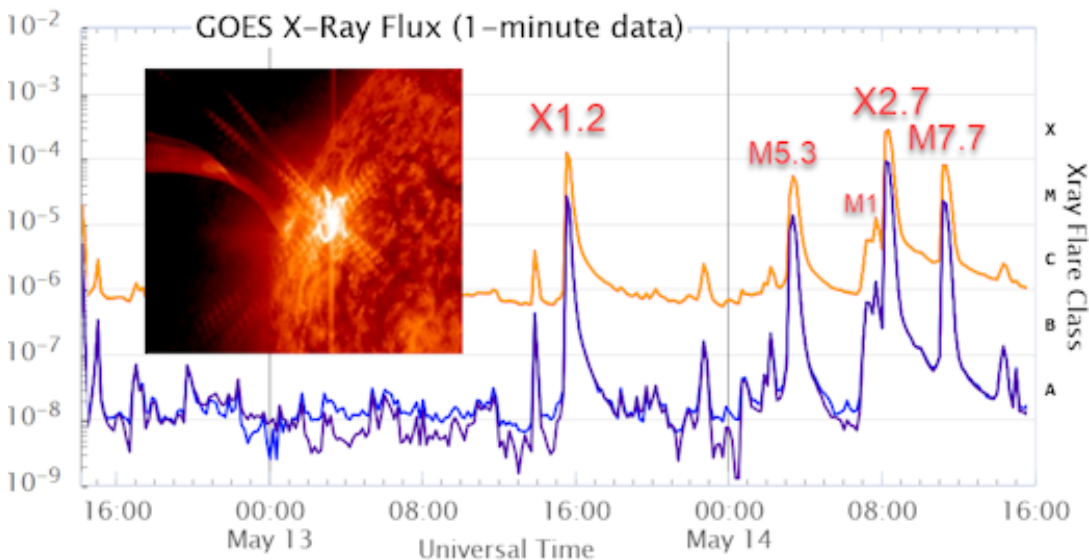
## Highs for Cycle 25

Solar Flux: 336 on August 8, 2024.

Sunspots: 382 on August 10, 2024.

## Strong Solar Activity (Updated)

After weeks of calm, solar activity is suddenly high again. The action started on May 13th with an [X1.2-class solar flare](#) from the sun's western limb, followed on May 14th by an [even stronger X2.7-flare](#) from new sunspot 4087. Earth-orbiting satellites have detected four significant explosions so far:



Radiation from the flares has caused a series of shortwave radio blackouts around the world--first [over](#)

[the Americas](#), followed by [southeast Asia](#), [the Middle East](#) and [Africa](#). Ham radio operators may have noticed unusual propagation effects from stations in all directions since May 13th.

Most of this activity has come from sunspot 4087, which has an unstable 'beta-gamma-delta' magnetic field. It could explode again today. NOAA forecasters estimate a 75% chance of [M-class](#) solar flares and a 30% chance of [X-flares](#) on May 15th.  
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Popular Propagation web sites

- <https://prop.kc2g.com/> (Excellent Maximum Usable Frequency map)
- NOAA <https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/>
- <https://www.spaceweather.com/>
- <https://www.solarham.com/>
- <https://dx.qsl.net/propagation/>

A Propagation Tutorial

The solar X-ray flux tracks solar activity and solar flares. Solar flux, which can vary from as low as 50 to as high as 300, influences the level of ionization in the F2 region of the ionosphere, providing a very good prediction of HF DX conditions. The higher the solar flux, the better conditions will be for the higher HF frequencies and even 6 meters. However, the levels need to be maintained for some days to allow ionization in the F2 layer to build up. A solar flux of 150 results in good HF band conditions, while levels of 200 and up can provide great conditions.

Large X-ray flares on the sun can increase the ionization of the D layer of the ionosphere (a lower layer) on the sunlit side of the Earth, greatly attenuating or blocking HF radio transmissions for up to a half hour. Solar flares often produce Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) which, if Earth directed, can lead to geomagnetic storms. Some large flares are also accompanied by strong radio bursts that may interfere with other radio frequencies and cause problems for satellite communication and radio navigation (GPS).

The Planetary K-index is a measure of the magnitude of geomagnetic storms and is an excellent indicator of disturbances in the Earth's magnetic field. A level of 1 or 2 represents quiet geomagnetic conditions; a reading of 3 or 4 may cause some propagation deterioration; 5 and 6 are minor to moderate geomagnetic storms; and 7 to 9 are strong, severe, and extreme storm conditions. Strong geomagnetic storms can trigger Auroral displays and cause HF radio blackouts. Higher geomagnetic activity also has the adverse effect of lowering maximum usable frequencies, much like lower solar flux does.

For best conditions, the solar flux should be above 150 for a few days with the K index below 2. When these conditions are met, some good DX is likely!  
-[Compiled from information on NOAA.gov and other sources]

Contest Calendar

Weekly Contests

Contest	Start UTC		End	Web Site
K1USN Slow Speed Test	Monday	0000Z	0100Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
ICWC Medium Speed Test	Monday	1300Z	1400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
	Monday	1900Z	2000Z	
	Tuesday	0300Z	0400Z	
CWops Test (CWT)	Wednesday	1300Z	1400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
	Wednesday	1900Z	2000Z	

	Thursday	0300Z	0400Z	
	Thursday	0700Z	0800Z	
Weekly RTTY Test	Friday	0145Z	0215Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
NCCC CW Sprint (NS)	Friday	0230Z	0300Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>

Note: Start Days are in UTC, e.g. Monday at 0000 UTC is Sunday at 7:00 PM in the Central Daylight Saving Time zone, or Sunday at 6:00 PM in the Central Standard Time zone.

## Full Calendar

Contest	Start		End		Web Site
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW	May 17	1200Z	May 18	1200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Arkansas QSO Party	May 17	1400Z	May 18	0200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
<b>CQ WW WPX Contest, CW</b>	May 24	0000Z	May 25	2400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Kentucky QSO Party	Jun 7	1300Z	Jun 8	0100Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
<b>ARRL Inter. Digital Contest</b>	Jun 7	1800Z	Jun 8	2400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
ARRL June VHF Contest	Jun 14	1800Z	Jun 16	0300Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	Jun 21	1500Z	Jun 22	1500Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
West Virginia QSO Party	Jun 21	1600Z	Jun 22	0400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
ARRL Kids Day	Jun 21	1800Z	Jun 21	2359Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, SSB	Jun 28	1200Z	Jun 29	1200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
<b>ARRL Field Day</b>	Jun 28	1800Z	Jun 29	2100Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
RAC Canada Day Contest	Jul 1	0000Z	Jul 1	2359Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
<b>IARU HF World Championship</b>	Jul 12	1200Z	Jul 13	1200Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
North American QSO Party, RTTY	Jul 19	1800Z	Jul 20	0600Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
CQ Worldwide VHF Contest	Jul 19	1800Z	Jul 20	2100Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
North American QSO Party, CW	Aug 2	1800Z	Aug 3	0600Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
<b>WAE DX Contest, CW</b>	Aug 9	0000Z	Aug 10	2359Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
Maryland-DC QSO Party	Aug 9	1400Z	Aug 10	0400Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
<b>North American QSO Party, SSB</b>	Aug 16	1800Z	Aug 17	0600Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>
ARRL Rookie Roundup, RTTY	Aug 17	1800Z	Aug 17	2359Z	<a href="#">Rules</a>

-[Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#) ]